

Message Text

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L:VAVILAPLANA
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE ISSUES - U.S.-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS

1. IN JANUARY 1978, OLEG KHLESTOV, LEGAL ADVISER TO THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, MET WITH HERBERT HANSELL, STATE DEPT LEGAL ADVISER. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, KHLESTOV PASSED ALONG A MESSAGE FROM AMB ALEKSANDR PIRADOV, HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE UN OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE'S LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC), WHO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. AND USSR COULD HOLD BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE LSC, STARTING
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ON MARCH 13 IN GENEVA. PIRADOV INDICATED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE U.S. TO FORMALLY RESPOND TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. THE MTG COULD BE IN LONDON, AS IT WAS IN 1976.

2. USG HAS BEEN GIVING PIRADOV'S PROPOSAL THOROUGH CONSIDERATION AND HAS DECIDED TO AGREE TO MEET WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE LSC TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON

SUBJECTS IN PARA 4 BELOW MENTIONED BY KHLESTOV AND, IN ADDITION, ON THE POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE FUTURE OF CONSENSUS AS THE WORKING METHOD OF THE OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES.

3. CONSISTENT WITH OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE 1977 U.S.-USSR AGREEMENT CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, TO COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW, WE SHARE THE DESIRE EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIETS TO AVOID PUBLIC ACRIMONY AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE AGREE THAT INFORMAL AND OPEN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS COULD BE QUITE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD, AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES GENUINELY INTEND TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOSE EXCHANGES. IN OUR VIEW THIS IS AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR SUCH DETAILED CONSULTATIONS; WE DO NOT CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT THIS FORMALIZES ANY PARTICULAR PATTERN OF MTGS.

4. WE CONCUR IN THE PROPOSALS OF AMB PIRADOV, AS STATED BY MR. KHLESTOV, THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DRAFT TREATY ON THE MOON, DIRECT TELEVISION BROADCASTING BY SATELLITE AND REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH.
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5. WITH REGARD TO THE TIME AND PLACE OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET IN LONDON. WE WOULD PROPOSE MARCH 2-3. WHILE RELATIVELY CLOSE TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LSC, IT WOULD, BY THAT TIME, BE POSSIBLE TO ASSESS RESULTS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE. WE REGRET THAT THE ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO EARLIER SET A DATE. SHOULD THE SHORT NOTICE CREATE ANY DIFFICULTY FOR SOVIETS WE WILL OF COURSE BE GLAD TO CONSULT AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LSC MTG. WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES BEING DEALT WITH IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH MAY BE UNRESOLVED AT THE TIME OF OUR CONSULTATIONS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY ABOVE MESSAGE TO PIRADOV OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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